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## **COVER STORY**

### **Universal Sanitation in India –An Elusive Goal?**



#### **According to UN Habitat & Water Aid**

Sanitation is **access** to, and use of, excreta and wastewater facilities and services that ensure **privacy** and dignity, ensuring a clean and healthy living environment for all.

Facilities and services should include the collection, transport, treatment and **disposal** of human excreta, domestic wastewater and solid waste, and associated **hygiene** promotion.

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# Cover Story

# Universal Sanitation in India –An Elusive Goal?

**Adequate sanitation is a basic human right.** Its lack is related to, and exacerbates, other burdens of inequity experienced by marginalized urban households, deepening the cycle of poverty. **Sanitation is not a symptom of poverty but a major contributing factor.** As lack of sanitation increases living costs, decreases spending on education and nutrition, lowers income earning potential, and threatens safety and welfare. This is especially true for urban India.

Universal sanitation in India remains elusive, even in communities where toilets exist. An evaluation by the Government of India shows, that a significant number of people do not use toilets. This stems from an array of issues such as sub-standard construction leading to disrepair, poor maintenance causing scarcity of water and electricity and the governments past emphasis on expensive standardized latrine designs that don't always work in different urban topographies.

Inadequate sanitation costs India a staggering **2.4 trillion each year**- equivalent to 6.4 % of its GDP and more than the annual income of Gujarat change.

**Inadequate sanitation is much more than just an inconvenience - costs lives, dignity and productivity.** Poor sanitation means dying children, uneducated girls, vulnerable women, unhealthy living conditions and ultimately unproductive and poor populations.

## Inadequate sanitation in India

- **1600 children die** every day before reaching the age of five.
  - **24% of girls drop out of school.**
  - More than **30% of marginalised women are violently assaulted every year** as the lack of basic sanitation forces them to travel long distances to meet their needs.
  - The poorest **20% of urban households bear the highest per capita economic impact of inadequate sanitation**, at times paying 75% more than the average Indian household.

Sanitation & hygiene have traditionally not been high priority subjects for the Government of India. This is reflected in the poor sanitation & hygiene standards all across the country. Statistics show that one-third of the 2.5 billion people in the world without improved sanitation live in India. Nearly 630 million people in India resort to open defecation. It is estimated that 1 in every 10 deaths in Indian villages is linked to poor sanitation. Diarrhoea kills one child every minute in India. Off late rural sanitation has received increasing attention which is reflected in increased budgetary outlays. But another fast emerging challenge is urban sanitation.

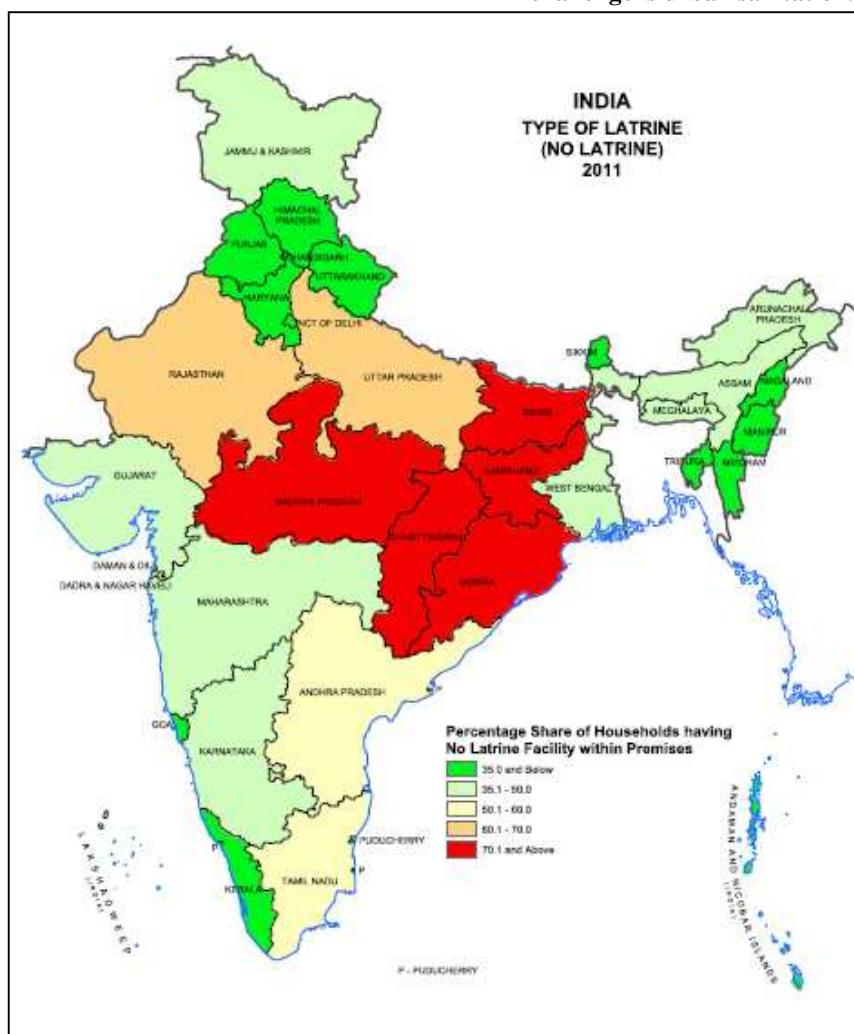


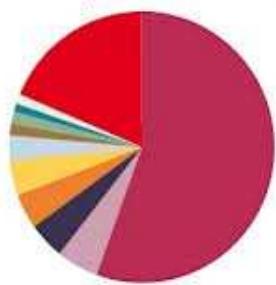
Image source:

Image source:  
<http://www.humanosphere.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/NoLatrinesIndia55.png>

glass.png  
(Accessed on 15.2.2013)

## HEADLINES

81% of 1.1 billion people that defecate in the open in the world live in 10 countries



[http://4.bp.blogspot.com/\\_GpB1o5GITs/UC-zqTl9ejI/AAAAAAAADIA/YuetKuVEf7o/s1600/Open+Defecation+UNICEF.jpg](http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_GpB1o5GITs/UC-zqTl9ejI/AAAAAAAADIA/YuetKuVEf7o/s1600/Open+Defecation+UNICEF.jpg)

### Demographic Challenges

- By 2030, **590 million people will live in Indian cities**, twice the population of United States today.
- The 2011 census reveals that, for the first time since independence, **the absolute increase in the urban population was higher than that of the rural population**.
- **50 million men, women and children are forced to defecate in the open due to lack of adequate sanitation**.
- As the urban population increases, demand for every key service including water and sewage treatment will increase five-to seven-fold.
- 7 million people continue to migrate to urban India every year.

India is urbanizing at a rapid pace. India's urban population comprises 31.16% of the country's total population and is projected to grow to 40% of the total population by 2030. As the urban population increases, demand for every key service including water and sewage treatment is projected to increase five-to seven-fold. Population increase without a corresponding improvement of basic amenities will turn cities more hostile to the people.

**Overcrowding and high density are defining characteristics of today's cities in India.** Indian cities are struggling to provide basic amenities such as water, electricity & public

transport to the masses. Sanitation conditions are deplorable, especially in slums.

These very ingredients provide ideal conditions for break out of epidemics.

The health, economic & productivity costs of poor sanitation are exacerbated in urban settings. The Black plague in Europe, Cholera outbreaks in Europe, North America and pre-independence India are all examples of what lack of basic sanitation and hygiene can do.

**In recent times however, the Government of India has recognised the importance of urban sanitation.** The 10th Five Year Plan emphasised on urban water supply and sanitation. Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission includes provisions to develop basic services for urban poor. A **National Urban Sanitation Policy was launched in 2008**. Ministry of Urban Development instituted the "Clean City Award". India also signed the Convention on Human Rights amendment recognizing water and sanitation as a human right.

**While these interventions are welcome and will go a long way in promoting sanitation, one must recognize that in India, urban sanitation cannot be provided by any one stakeholder or by the traditional top- down approach that often neglects the requirements of the communities being served.** While the size of investment underscores the critical role of the Government of India, **equally important is the role of the communities that will be ultimately responsible for making sanitation a sustained reality.** Along with the government and communities, non profits play a pivotal role in the sanitation framework. These findings stress the need for a multi pronged strategy with participation of all stakeholders to promote sanitation.

[Five Cornerstones Recommended in DASRA's "Squatting Rights" Report](#)  
[Include:](#)

**1. Developing a Gendered Approach:** Sanitation projects designed with full participation from women are five to seven times more successful than those that focus only on men. It is vital to acknowledge the distinct role of men and women and involve them both as important actors, stakeholders and change agents for improved sanitation.

**2. Improving Hygiene:** It is essential to educate communities about the life saving potential of simple hygiene and its key role in helping populations realize the full return on infrastructure investments.

**3. Fostering Champions within Government:** It is important to identify and foster champions for sanitation within all levels of the government – central, state and local – who will enable favourable policy environments, cut through red tape and drive the sanitation agenda to ensure long term, large scale impact.

**4. Nurturing Community Ownership:** Universal sanitation in India remains elusive due to the government's traditional approach that often neglects the requirements of the communities being served. There is a need to move away from this top – down method to a community led approach. Endorsed by the United Nations, it encourages communities to confront the consequences of their sanitation practices and take ownership to improve their situation.

**5. Customizing Solutions and Creating Standards:** It is crucial to consider the unique features of different communities that may hinder progress, and customize interventions accordingly. It is equally important, to standardize scalable aspects of the sanitation chain and leverage existing sector knowledge to avoid duplication of effort, save time and contribute to scale.

[The Stakeholders Identified In The Report Include:](#)

**1. Government:** Sanitation in India is a state subject. Currently, 29 states

## HEADLINES

and union territories, out of a total of 35, are engaged in preparing State Sanitation Plans and 158 cities have taken the initiative to make City Sanitation Plans. At the central level, beside the nodal Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) institutional responsibility for the full water supply and sanitation chain at the ministerial level falls between a number of ministries, commissions, and boards. This complexity also contributes at times to the failure to implement programs in the sector.

**2. Development Agencies & Foundations:** Agencies such as World Bank, USAID, Asian Development Bank play various roles in urban sanitation drive.

**3. Social Businesses:** An EU study published in 2012 shows that small-scale water and sanitation providers serve a substantial portion of the market, particularly for the poor. The World Bank estimates that entrepreneurs/independent providers often service a high percentage of the population – up to 90% in some cases. But urban sanitation has not seen as many scalable businesses as in drinking water sector in India.

**4. Corporate:** Very few corporates deploy their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds towards sanitation programs. While some are doing so as part of village development initiatives, little is granted towards urban sanitation.

**5. Microfinance institutions:** More local MFIs in India are now offering micro loans for building toilets as a result of both demand and supply factors. These loans are typically not income generating in traditional MFI terms, but are income enhancing.

**6. Nonprofits:** Nonprofits currently engage in mobilizing communities, building capacity, research and development and partnering with Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in promoting urban sanitation. The NUSP recognizes the ‘special role’ of Nonprofits as mobilizing communities, raising awareness and working with poor and un-served

communities to assist them in finding affordable, community-managed solutions to sanitation.

Success stories which employed a combination of the above strategies by a combination of stakeholders could be found in different parts of the country. Gramalaya, a nonprofit, mobilized women Self Help Groups (SHGs) in Tiruchirapally’s slums and brought about a transformation in sanitation and toilet facilities in the town. Trichy City Corporation (TCC) supported the effort by auditing the books. The success of women led men to take up ownership too. Another example is from Nanded Municipal Corporation. This time the effort was led from the front by Dr. Nipun Vinayak, former Municipal Commissioner of Nanded-Waghala Municipal Corporation. He collaborated with the local elected leaders and nonprofits in his effort. The efforts resulted in 238 empowered communities that took on the agenda of sanitation and 157 communities forming sanitation committees more than half of which declared open defecation free - all in a short span of a year. Kalyani in West Bengal is the first town in India to be officially declared Open Defecation Free (ODF). Dr. Shantanu Jha, the Chairman of Kalyani Municipality Council rejected funding from British Development Agency and government funding to build toilets for slum dwellers. The municipality launched an awareness drive which led the communities to build toilets themselves. **This eliminated open defecation in all 52 slums across the city.**

### High Impact Interventions for Increasing Access to Sanitation for Urban Poor

- Enabling behaviour change for hygiene education
- Training stakeholders
- Influencing government
- Creating knowledge and gathering data
- Mobilizing and organizing communities
- Adapting appropriate hardware
- Providing flexible finance

Investing in sanitation promises multi sectoral returns – it not only saves lives but ensures healthier children, boosts education, augments environmental security and enhances economic welfare. There is an urgent need to acknowledge sanitation as a key focus area of development and commit philanthropic funding to successful non profits that champion this cause effectively. However, challenging entrenched social habits and building the capacities of communities and government requires significant time and effort that should be supported by long term strategic funding.

**For every \$ 1 spent on sanitation at least \$ 9 is saved in health, education and economic development. This happens to be the single greatest return on investment of any development intervention.**

Based on Water Aid at the UN international, Year of Sanitation Launch, 2008 & SQUATTING RIGHTS, Access to Toilets in Urban India: Darsa & Forbes Marshall

For more go to: [http://www.dasra.org/pdf/Squatting\\_Rights\\_Report.pdf](http://www.dasra.org/pdf/Squatting_Rights_Report.pdf)

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[http://www.unicef.org/media/files/JM\\_Preport2012.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/media/files/JM_Preport2012.pdf)  
<http://www.wsp.org/sites/wsp.org/files/publications/wsp-esi-india.pdf> from <http://www.wsp.org/node/1150>  
[http://indiasanitationportal.org/sites/default/files/What\\_is\\_ailing\\_poor\\_sanitation\\_coverage\\_in\\_India.pdf](http://indiasanitationportal.org/sites/default/files/What_is_ailing_poor_sanitation_coverage_in_India.pdf)  
[http://www.indiaenvironmentportal.org.in/files/file/NSHAC\\_strategy.pdf](http://www.indiaenvironmentportal.org.in/files/file/NSHAC_strategy.pdf)

## SECTION 1: THE ECONOMY

### Call to Make Rural Jobs Scheme Women Friendly

(Elizabeth Roche, *Live Mint*, 14 January, 2013)

“The rural jobs scheme, launched in February 2006, aims at enhancing the livelihood security of people in rural areas by guaranteeing 100 days of employment in a financial year to a rural household the adult members of which volunteer for unskilled manual work.” According to an impact assessment report released last year, the national participation rate of women under the jobs programme was 47%.

“In order to make the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government’s flagship MNREGS scheme more women friendly, rural development minister Jairam Ramesh has made a series of suggestions in letters to state chief ministers seeking special and priority jobs for widowed, destitute and disabled women. “Ensure special works, which require less effort and those that are close to their house, are given to pregnant women and lactating mothers,” Ramesh wrote in one of the letters addressed to Jagadish Shettar, chief minister of Karnataka. The suggestions include providing job cards and 100 days of work to widowed, deserted and destitute women. “Another suggestion is related to ensuring at least 50% of worksite supervisors are women.” The minister also emphasized the establishment of worksite facilities such as crèches and drinking water. There is also a need to open individual bank or post office accounts in the name of all women MGNREGA so that wages are directly credited to them.

“Priority should be given to women workers who have put in maximum work in the last three years or their daughters. Within this, first priority may be given to disabled women,” Ramesh wrote in the letters dated 21 December.

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/d7r8ExP8ujPVn8iFHNEZK/Jairam-Ramesh-calls-to-make-rural-jobs-scheme-women-friendly.html>

Date Accessed: 14.01.2013  
(Anjora Sarangi)

### Economic Freedom of the States of India 2012

(Swaminathan S. Anklesaria Aiyar, *Cato Institute*, 2012)

This report demonstrates the significant differences in economic governance that exist in India. It has thus focused attention on state-level reforms to improve growth. The key findings of the report suggest that while India's economic freedom rating has improved notably since the early 1990s, it is still ranked poorly on a global scale (111th place out of 144 countries). The levels of economic freedom from state to state within India vary greatly and greater economic freedom is positively associated with growth at the state level. According to the report, Gujarat was at the top most rank in economic freedom among 20 biggest Indian states, ahead of second-placed Tamil Nadu (0.56). Madhya Pradesh (0.56) is close behind in third position, Haryana (0.55) retains fourth position and Himachal (0.53) retains fifth position. The bottom three states in 2011 were, in reverse order, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal. The biggest improvement has been registered by Madhya Pradesh. Its freedom index score rose from 0.42 in 2009 to 0.56 in 2011. This improvement in the economic freedom was associated with acceleration in its GDP which averaged 6% per year from 2004-2009 but then accelerated to 9% per year in 2009-2011. Jharkhand recorded the biggest decline and its GDP growth averaged only 4.6% in 2004-2011, one of the lowest among all states.

<http://www.cato.org/economic-freedom-india/Economic-Freedom-States-of-India-2012.pdf>

Date Accessed: 15.01.2013  
(Naina Bhardwaj)

### IMF View of Indian Economy

(S. Sethuraman, *The Echo of India*, 30 January, 2013)

In a New Year update, the estimates by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), have signalled a favourable growth forecast in the global as well as in the Indian economy. IMF sees a “gradual strengthening” of global economy in the New Year, as constraints on economic activity “start to ease” and projects global growth at 3.5 per cent in 2013 from 3.2 per cent last year. India's growth is estimated at 5.9 per cent in 2013 which is significantly higher from the 2012 estimate of 4.5 per cent. For 2014, IMF projects global growth at 4.1 per cent with a corresponding rise in India's GDP to 6.4 per cent.

The latest update notes that if risks do not materialise and financial conditions continue to improve, global growth could become stronger than forecast in which case, India can aim for 7-8 per cent growth in the later years of the 12th Plan. China's growth is projected to rise from 7.8 per cent in 2012 to 8.2 in 2013 and 8.5 per cent in 2014.

According to the IMF, the United States and the emerging markets and developing nations, are the main sources of growth. It has underscored the need to rebuild policy room for balancing external downside risks against risks of domestic imbalances in the emerging markets. In case of India, the economy is not expected to move towards higher growth until infrastructural constraints are overcome and supply side bottlenecks are credibly removed.

<http://echoofindia.com/reflex-action/imf-view-indian-economy-21995>

Date Accessed: 31.01.2013  
(Naina Bhardwaj)

## SECTION 1: THE ECONOMY

### Indian Consumers Cut Down on Discretionary Spending - Credit Suisse

(Samachar, 31 January, 2013)

According to an emerging markets consumer survey report by Credit Suisse, Indians are cutting down on discretionary purchases like apparel, electronics and automobiles as consumer optimism is on a decline. The survey noted high inflation and slower growth as the key factors which continue to worry Indian consumers with more people expecting lower salary increases. This is in sharp contrast with other fast-growing economies like Indonesia, where the increase in minimum wages is likely to keep consumer sentiment robust. In China too, sentiment remains strong on the back of purchases by consumers from lower income groups. It has been analysed that more and more consumers are postponing big-ticket purchases and this situation will take more than a couple of quarters to improve. The report, however pointed out that the long-term growth potential in India remained intact due to low product penetration in most categories.

[http://www.samachar.com/Indian-consumers-cut-down-on-discretionary-spend-nb5mN5jgcei.html?source=recommended\\_news](http://www.samachar.com/Indian-consumers-cut-down-on-discretionary-spend-nb5mN5jgcei.html?source=recommended_news)

Date Accessed: 31.01.2013  
(Naina Bhardwaj)

### The End of Labour: How to Protect Workers from the Rise of Robots

(Noah Smith, *The Atlantic*, 14 January, 2013)

"For most of modern history, inequality has been a manageable

problem. The reason is that no matter how unequal things get, most people are born with something valuable: the ability to work, to learn, and to earn money. For most of modern history, two-thirds of the income of most rich nations has gone to pay salaries and wages for people who work, while one-third has gone to pay dividends, capital gains, interest, rent, etc. to the people who own capital. But in the past ten years, things have changed. Labour's share of income has steadily declined, falling by several percentage points since 2000. It now sits at around 60% or lower." One explanation for this reduction is that the entry of China into global labour force has doubled the labour supply, thus reducing its return. This effect will subside as China develops.

Another explanation is that the advancement of technology, for example robots building cars, computing taxes, etc., is replacing more and more human labour. While it is impossible to replace humans completely from the work force, the share of workers in what society produces will go down with technological progress. This goes by a theory called – "capital-biased technological change." Policy and societal responses should be geared towards addressing this erosion in "endowment of human capital." While there are traditional responses such as taxation, etc., to redistribute wealth, in a world where capital will earn more income it would be counter-productive to tax capital beyond a point. Other responses could be to make it easier for common people to have their own little armies of robots and encouraging small businesses, promoting more people to own stocks of companies by making it easier for companies to go public.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2013/01/the-end-of-labor-how-to-protect-workers-from-the-rise-of-robots/267135/>

(B. Varun Kumar Reddy)  
(Accessed on: 15.01.2013)

### An Emerging Middle Class

(Mario Pezzini, oecdobserver.org)

"The increase in average incomes and the fall in levels of absolute poverty, in particular during the last decade, suggest that an increasing proportion of the world's population is neither rich nor poor by national standards but finds itself in the middle of the income distribution. The size of the 'global middle class' will increase from 1.8 billion in 2009 to 3.2 billion by 2020 and 4.9 billion by 2030. By 2030 Asia will represent 66% of the global middle-class population and 59% of middle-class consumption." The focus is now on the middle class of the developing world like India, China and Africa. It is important to consolidate this emerging middle income group into a stable middle class. "Middle classes are believed to support democracy and progressive but moderate political platforms. Strong middle classes can influence economic development through more active participation in the political process, expressing support for political programmes and electoral platforms, in particular those that promote inclusive growth." In 1960s Brazil and Korea had similar growth rates. But by 1980s, due to high inequality Brazil's middle class made up only 29% of the population in contrast to Korea's 53%. This enabled Korea to shift away from export led growth to consumption driven growth. Hence care should be taken to nurture the middle class. "Since middle classes remain vulnerable, they are dissatisfied with state services. Governments should put policies in place to fight the vulnerabilities in order to benefit from middle class support. Policies should promote upward social mobility, such as education, and provide safety nets that protect the most vulnerable segments when facing life risks (unemployment, old age, disability, parenthood)." Middle class expectations in emerging and developing countries are rising and evolving as their countries' economic situations improve. They are no longer satisfied with simply having access to

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public services; they are increasingly concerned with their quality. They want better and cheaper services. "The rising expectations of the expanding middle class in developing countries contrast with the stagnating living standards of a shrinking middle class in OECD countries. Today both middle classes are awakening."

[http://www.oecdobserver.org/news/fullstory.php?aid=3681/An\\_emerging\\_middle\\_class.html](http://www.oecdobserver.org/news/fullstory.php?aid=3681/An_emerging_middle_class.html)

(B. Varun Kumar Reddy)  
(Accessed on: 15.01.2013)

### Build an Efficient Supply Chain between Farmers and Markets

*(The Economic Times, 15 January, 2013)*

India's Consumer Price Index rose to 10.56 percent in December due to a spurt in prices in the food and beverage category - mainly vegetables, oils and fat, cereals and sugar. The author holds bad policy and governance failure responsible for the price rise.

· One of the major reasons for the rise in prices of these commodities especially food grains are the shortage in marketplace due to the hoarding by the government. Therefore the practice of procuring far in excess of the stocking norm by the government has to be stopped for the prices to stabilize.

· The supply chain allows any minor shortage in relation to demand to translate into speculative gains for trade. Policy focus has to be on creating the marketing infrastructure and linkage between retail demand and the farmer, than on production.

· There is a need to build an efficient supply chain that links farmers directly to the markets. It would require a huge jump in logistics including cold chains and also swift transport of the produce from farms to consumption centres in towns.

· Farmers also need to be organized into producer cooperatives or companies which will give them better bargaining power vis-à-vis retail giants.

[http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-01-15/news/36353157\\_1\\_support-price-cold-chains-milk-producers](http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-01-15/news/36353157_1_support-price-cold-chains-milk-producers)

Date accessed: 1.2.2013  
(Simi Sunny)

### RAY of Hope for Slums

*(Amitabha Kundu, The Economic Times, 24 January 2013)*

In this article, the author has brought out the significance of one flagship programme of UPA-II that is Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY), which projects a vision of a slum-free India. Granting full property rights to slum dwellers and enactment of state legislation in this regard are mandatory requirements under RAY. The programme promises to make urban poor families realize their dreams of having a house with full title and access to basic amenities.

The announcement of this scheme therefore not only ushered dreams to slum dwellers but has raised diverse expectations across various stakeholders. Several economic agents like real estate sector, banks, urban middle class now expect to gain from this. The local authorities are expected to shoulder more responsibility for preparing the Action Plan, where 70-80% of existing slums as tenable requires no reallocation. Central ministries have to set in motion the criterion for identifying untenable and hazardous slums, and needs case-to-case preparation for the Action Plan at the city level. The task is not easy, as there are issues of arbitrariness, corruption, lack of systematic land records, non-transparent deals and non-cooperation among different land owning departments, which can act as stumbling blocks for giving land titles to the slum dwellers. The author therefore suggests to 'specify the

guidelines for implementing RAY with clarity and transparency at the national or state levels so that city-level authorities are empowered to take appropriate decisions'. Other important lacunae of the mission as pointed out by the author is the exclusion of small and medium towns, despite there being high incidence of poverty and slum like conditions with service deficiencies. Therefore it is difficult to justify the focus of RAY on large cities to make urban India slum free and attracting national and global investment. Also due to existing lack of land titles, the slum dwellers would face difficulty to access subsidized credit and institutional finance and would be forced to continue to borrow from money-lenders and making them fall into the debt-trap.

[www.economictimes.com](http://www.economictimes.com)

Date accessed 25.1. 2013  
(Rakhee Bhattacharya)

### POLITICS AND GOVERNANCE

#### Should Bihar Get ‘Special Category’ Status?

(Biswa Swarup Misra, *The Hindu Business Line*, 14 January, 2013)

As the Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) rejects Bihar's plea for being given a Special Category Status (SCS), the battle of words between the Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and the Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) continues. This article analyses whether or not Bihar should be given a special category status and suggests that financial robustness should not be the parameter but instead backwardness of a state should be the criteria. The Special Category States receive a special treatment in the allocation of funds released by the Planning Commission for planned development, on account of harsh terrain, backwardness and social problems prevailing in these States. Out of the financial allocation to the General Category States, 70 per cent is in shape of loans and the balance 30 per cent is a grant, whereas for the SCS the proportions, respectively, are 10 per cent and 90 per cent. The Inter-Ministerial Group rejected Bihar's plea to be considered a special category State after judging it on the basis of five conditions — hilly and difficult terrain, low population density and sizeable share of tribal population, strategic location along borders with neighbouring countries, economic and infrastructure backwardness and non-viable State finances. However, the Inter Ministry Task Group (IMTG) constituted by the Planning Commission in its 2005 report, had observed that Bihar not only had the highest number, but also the highest proportion of backward districts compared with any other state. As many as 36 out of 38 districts in Bihar were backward as per the rankings of IMTG. It is also a fact that Bihar has occupied the last rank in

terms of real per capita GSDP among all States in all the years 2000 through 2012. Bihar accounted for roughly 2.8 per cent of the GDP but 8.2 per cent of the country's population during 2009-12. Therefore it appears to be a fair demand when the government's study itself suggests preponderance of backwardness in Bihar. The report has special chapters on economic freedom in agriculture and labour market.

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/should-bihar-get-special-category-status/article4307301.ece>

Date Accessed: 15.01.2013  
(Naina Bhardwaj)

### DEVELOPMENT

#### Think, Eat, Save: UNEP, FAO and Partners Launch Global Campaign to Change Culture of Food Waste

(United Nations Environment Programme, 22 January, 2013)

The UN Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization and other partners launched a campaign that would cut the wastage of food. "The Think.Eat.Save. Reduce Your Foodprint campaign is in support of the SAVE FOOD Initiative to reduce food loss and waste along the entire chain of food production and consumption - run by the FAO and trade fair organizer Messe Düsseldorf - and the UN Secretary General's Zero Hunger Challenge. The new campaign specifically targets food wasted by consumers, retailers and the hospitality industry." This campaign aims to hasten the action and provide a 'global vision and information-sharing portal.' The article estimates that about one third of the food produced worldwide, worth US \$1 trillion is either lost or wasted in food production and consumption system

according to FAO. UN Under-Secretary-General and UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner said, "In a world of seven billion people, set to grow to nine billion by 2050, wasting food makes no sense - economically, environmentally and ethically." He also added, "Aside from the cost implications, all the land, water, fertilizers and labour needed to grow that food is wasted - not to mention the generation of greenhouse gas emissions produced by food decomposing on landfill and the transport of food that is ultimately thrown away." Therefore, a transformation is needed in the way food is produced and consumed. This is because the FAO states that 95% of the food wasted in the developing countries is because of the unintentional losses at early stages of food supply chain. These are caused due to the financial, managerial and technical limitations during the harvesting period. The FAO director-general has said, "If we can help food producers to reduce losses through better harvesting, processing, storage, transport and marketing methods, and combine this with profound and lasting changes in the way people consume food, then we can have a healthier and hunger-free world."

<http://www.unep.org/newscentre/Default.aspx?DocumentID=2702&ArticleID=9377&l=en>

(Date Accessed: 31.01.2013)  
Ranjana Adhikari

### SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC EXCLUSION

#### Trafficked Brides In Haryana Are Reduced To Sex Objects And Cheap Labour

(Ashok Kumar, *The Hindu*, 15 January, 2013)

A recent study on the social status and rights of women imported from far removed parts of the country as brides to Haryana “reveals how they are cut from their people, native place and culture forever, end up as sex toys in bed and cheap labourers in the fields with no right to property or to interfere in family and social matters, even as the police, the media and society at large turns its back to the issue.” The study showed that at least 80 per cent of the *molki* women interviewed are not registered in local ration cards or voter lists, therefore denying them the status and rights of a permanent family member.

The article points out that “though the trend of bride trafficking is mostly associated with skewed sex ratio, there are several other factors such as need for cheap labour that contribute to it.” Usually referred as *paro* or *molki* meaning purchased, these women are imported to Haryana in the name of marriage and are often kept as “bonded farm labourers.” As a result these “women are then sexually abused both by their husband and his employer and also double up as cheap farm labourers.”

However the lives of the *molki* women become more “pitiable after their owner’s death and they are either sold or handed over to others as there is no social pressure on the family to take care of their basic needs. Some of these women adopt prostitution as a means of livelihood.”

The trend of bride trafficking is also related to the long-standing of *karewa* (sexual relations of more than one male with a single woman) which is now being revived through this practice of import of brides. As a result the *molki* women are sexually exploited by all the males of the family.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/statistics/other-states/bonded-brides/article4307384.ece>

Date accessed 16.01.2013

(Junty Sharma Pathak)

#### New Measure for Urban Poverty

(Richard Mahapatra, *Down To Earth*, 28 January, 2013)

The Planning Commission's perspective planning division submitted a detailed methodology to identify below poverty line (BPL) households in urban areas. The group was assigned the task in May 2010 since the states did not have a standard methodology to identify the urban poor for selecting beneficiaries for various development programmes. Abolishing the generally used income-based methodology, the report proposed that the households should be termed poor on the basis of the three vulnerabilities: residential, occupational and social. The urban poor will be identified using a three-stage process. They are: automatic exclusion, automatic inclusion and a scoring index, with each having separate indicators. In the first stage, households meeting any indicator will be excluded. The remaining households would then be examined for the automatic inclusion stage. The residual households will be subjected to the scoring index (see highlights). In the index with scores ranging from 0 to 12, any household scoring zero will be automatically excluded from the BPL list while those scoring between 1 and 12 will be included.

<http://www.downtoearth.org.in/content/new-measure-urban-poverty>

Date Accessed: 31.2.2013  
(Simi Sunny)

### HEALTH

#### Eradication of Polio in India

(Press Information Bureau, 13 January, 2013)

In 2009, India accounted for half of the total polio cases in the world.” On 13th January 2013 , India completed two years of being completely polio free, declared earlier by the World Health Organisation (WHO). India has been removed from the list of polio endemic countries which is a historical feat. To commemorate this event, the “President of India launched the National Immunization Day, 2013 by administering polio drops to children at Rashtrapati Bhavan.” The achievement is especially significant as in 2009, when “India accounted for half of the total polio cases in the world.”

The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Ghulam Nabi Azad, in his speech on the day emphasized the Government’s efforts towards providing financial resources, ensuring improved coverage, quick response times and technological innovations “including a Bivalent oral polio vaccine, which India was among the first to introduce from January, 2010.”

Though the immediate threat of polio has ceased, Azad specified that the government is committed towards eradication of polio across the world and has put in place an Emergency Preparedness Response Plan in case of polio importation. The nationwide immunization campaign will begin from “20th January 2013, in which more than 170 million children of less than 5 years of age will be given polio drops.”

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erlease.aspx?relid=0>

Date Accessed: 14.01.2013  
(Anjora Sarangi)

## SECTION 2: GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

### Regulation And the Medical Profession

(Sandhya Srinivasan, *The Economic and Political Weekly*, 19 January, 2013)

The debate on The Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010 has been renewed as the legislation, already in force in few states like Arunachal Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh has now been placed before the state legislature in Maharashtra amidst vehement protest from the medical fraternity. According to the author, “there has been a long history of blanket opposition from the organised medical profession in India, especially the Indian Medical Association, to any serious attempt at regulation of the practice of medicine.”

Under the Act, “no hospital, nursing home, clinic, or any other establishment offering medical diagnosis or treatment may function without registration.” This registration is received on meeting certain minimum standards for infrastructure, equipment, human power, etc. and must be renewed every 5 years.

There are certain valid concerns regarding the Act, such as  
· doctors may be subject to harassment by an “inspector raj”  
· changes required may force small establishments to close down and render healthcare unaffordable.

However, there is no law that “currently provides for physical standards in clinical establishments and to compromise on quality for quantity can backfire in the critical domain of medicine.

The national legislation had emerged from a patients’ rights movement as a result of growing reports of unethical practices within a highly privatised healthcare system, and the complete failure to act against doctors by the medical councils meant for self-regulation.

Patients’ distrust of medical professionals has reached such heights

that a law such as the CEA becomes imperative to restore faith of the common man.

<http://www.epw.in/commentary/regulation-and-medical-profession.html>

Date Accessed: 20.1.2013  
(Hansa Kaul)

### Conflict of Interest on Recommendation of Immunization Schedule

(Rema Nagarajan, *The Times of India*, 13 January, 2013)

India completed its 2nd polio free year on the 13th of January 2013. However, this victory should not blind us to the problems that plague the immunization programme of the country.

The article highlights the conflict of interest that exists in the functioning of the Indian Academy of Paediatrics (IAP). The annual report 2012 of IAP itself showed that “out of the fund of Rs 27.8 lakh with the IAP Committee of Immunisation, Rs 26.8 lakh were contributed by vaccine manufacturers like Sanofi Pasteur, GSK and Pfizer.

The author points out that “the 2012 immunisation schedule of the IAP, included many of the newer and expensive vaccines not included in the national immunization programme. On a single dose of such vaccines, doctors can make a profit of anything from Rs 200 to over Rs 600 depending on the vaccine being given and the brand chosen. Though the Medical Council of India (MCI) has banned doctors from taking a gift of more than Rs 1,000 to ensure that they are not induced by companies to prescribe their products, yet the hefty profit margins being offered to doctors on every single dose of vaccine could be an even better inducement.”

This is reflective of an ambiguous and inadequate ethical framework to

regulate physician-pharmaceutical industry relationships, for which better guidelines need to be drawn. The aggressive methods used to market vaccines of questionable public health significance and the means taken to realise huge profit margins at the expense of patients need to be checked.

[http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-01-13/special-report/36310587\\_1\\_sanofi-pasteur-vaccine-schedule-vaccine-manufacturers](http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-01-13/special-report/36310587_1_sanofi-pasteur-vaccine-schedule-vaccine-manufacturers)

Date Accessed: 14.1.2013  
(Hansa Kaul)

### URBAN

### Delhi Faces Water Crisis

(Shailja Chandra, *Hindustan Times*, 29 January, 2013)

Delhi is on the verge of a major groundwater crisis as the exploitation of water has increased by 240 percent in the south and south-west districts of Delhi in the past 12 years. These areas have been involved in relentless water mining, and the excavation levels are way deeper than the official permitted level. While many of the Delhi residents are using illegal bore wells, the “water lords are relentlessly digging into groundwater and even destroying the water mains. The city treats less than half the wastewater it generates. The Delhi cantonment and the NDMC areas get five times more water than the rest of Delhi. Every day, millions of litres of sewage and industrial effluent flow into the Yamuna. Half a million new people come into the city each year, multiplying the demand for water, sewage and waste disposal. Slum dwellers beg, borrow and steal water, the acute deficiency taking its toll on health and sanitation.” It is high time that rainwater harvesting is made mandatory and an independent regulator is made responsible to keep a check on the irresponsible building policies.

## SECTION 2: GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/ViewSectionPage/ColumnsOthers/Wake-up-before-it-s-too-late/Article1-1003529.aspx>

Date accessed: 31.01.2013

(Simi Sunny)

### **TRANSPORT**

#### **The Case Against One-Way Streets**

(Eric Jaffe, Atlantic Cities, 31 January, 2013)

One way cities have several disadvantages. Some of them are:

- Liveability: vehicles stop less on one-way streets, which is hard for bikers and pedestrians.
- Navigation: one-way street networks are confusing for drivers, which lead to more vehicle-miles travelled; they also make it tough for bus riders to locate stops for a return trip.
- Safety: speeds tend to be higher on one-way streets, and some studies suggest drivers pay less attention on them because there's no conflicting traffic flow.
- Economics: local businesses believe that two-way streets increase visibility.

To add to these reasons, research by Vikash Gayah, a civil engineer at Penn State University, comes up with another reason. He discards the typical traffic metric – vehicle flow – which measures number of vehicles that pass by per unit time and instead uses “trip – serving capacity” which considers both the flow and the extra travel distance created by a street system. Using this new metric he compared one-way streets to several types of two-way streets. In his study, the two way streets proved to be more effective. While his work has

limitations, it does open up avenues for more research and debate.

<http://www.theatlanticcities.com/commute/2013/01/case-against-one-way-streets/4549/>

(B. Varun Kumar Reddy)  
(Accessed on: 01.02.2013)

### **TECHNOLOGY**

#### **Internet Governance via Hard and Soft Laws: Choosing the Right Tools For the Job**

(Samantha Bradshaw and Kyle Harris, *Centre for International Governance Innovation*, 30 January, 2013)

This article highlights the fact that the Internet is currently governed by a mix of hard and soft laws at both the domestic and international levels. However, much of the hard law that affects the Internet was developed in and for a pre-Internet world. Hard law, in the form of domestic statutes or international treaties, coexists alongside various forms of soft law, which are less binding, less precise and/or rely on less centralized forms of interpretation and enforcement. The fair use doctrine is a copyright principle based on the belief that individuals are entitled to use portions of copyrighted materials for limited but socially important purposes: to critique, parody or comment on copyrighted work. In the digital age, however, determining what is “fair” becomes complicated which no longer entails simply quoting literary texts for comment in newspapers and magazines. Many of the laws governing the Internet were created before its conception, and some actors have tried to fill in the gaps in governance through soft law arrangements in an effort to make basic Internet functions work both

quickly and efficiently. Trying to work out how to adapt existing bodies of domestic and international law to the Internet is complex. However, despite these difficulties, it has become evident that soft law instruments can play an important role in Internet governance. In the future, some of these soft law arrangements may be transformed into hard law; however, this should not be understood as the ultimate goal or considered a measure of success. As the Internet continues to develop and become more integrated into our lives, it is essential that we select the right tools for the job.

<http://www.cigionline.org/publications/2013/1/internet-governance-hard-and-soft-laws-choosing-right-tools-job>

Date Accessed: 31.01.2013  
(Naina Bhardwaj)

#### **A Solar-Powered Shed for India's Perishable Food**

(Joanna M. Foster, *The New York Times*, 28 January, 2013)

To address the problem of cold storage, electricity shortage and inadequate refrigeration in Indian farms, business students and engineers from the University of Cincinnati have teamed with local Ohio companies to create a small solar-powered refrigerated shed for storing food. “The ‘SolerCool’ container runs on just eight solar panels and keeps produce at a comfortably cool temperature, even at night, thanks to a battery that charges during the day.” The technology’s strength lies in its compressors. Compressors, which generate the cold air for refrigeration, draw huge amounts of energy. However, ‘SolerCool’ containers run on a small portable compressor which in turn runs on the power from just a few solar panels. Though efforts are being made to make the technology affordable to the poorest of farmers, the innovation can have positive impacts for the agro industry and the food security of the country.

## SECTION 2: GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

<http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/01/28/a-solar-powered-shed-for-indias-perishable-food/>

Date Accessed: 31.01.2013  
(Karishma Mutreja)

### **ENVIRONMENT**

#### **Minamata Convention agreed by nations**

*(United Nations Environment Programme, 19 January, 2013)*

In order to address the health and environmental hazards of mercury, governments have agreed to a global and legal treaty to together prevent emissions and releases of mercury. The treaty will be open for signature in October in Japan. This treaty directly addresses the mining of this metal, the export and import and safe storage of waste mercury. The treaty would also propose, “Boosting medical care and better training of health care professionals in identifying and treating mercury-related effects.” UN Secretary General and Executive Director of UNEP, Achim Steiner said, “After complex and often all night sessions here in Geneva, nations have today laid the foundations for a global response to a pollutant whose notoriety has been recognized for well over a century.” Governments have agreed on banning the products such as batteries, certain types of CFLs, soaps and cosmetics, thermometers and blood pressure devices by 2020 as they have mercury in them, “The new treaty will control mercury emissions and releases from various large industrial facilities ranging from coal-fired power stations and industrial boilers to certain kinds of smelters handling for example zinc and gold.”

<http://www.unep.org/newscentre/Default.aspx?DocumentID=2702&ArticleID=9373&l=en>

(Date Accessed: 31.01.2013)  
Ranjana Adhikari

#### **National Tiger Consolation Authority**

*(Jay Mazoomdar, Tehelka, 10 January, 2013)*

The article discusses the plight of the fast diminishing tigers of our country and the deficiencies in the formulation and implementation of policies for their preservation.

The 2006 amendment of the Wildlife (Protection) Act (WLPA), 1972, paved the way for the formation of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) which was meant to give more teeth to Project Tiger that had been functioning merely as a fund-disbursing agency. The NTCA can “issue directions in writing to any person, officer or authority for the protection of tiger or tiger reserves and such person, officer or authority shall be bound to comply with the directions.”

But despite these formal powers of NTCA, few states take this statutory authority seriously, which has rendered it as toothless as the bodies before it. Various states and agencies continue to ignore its letters, not a single official has ever been pulled up and some openly renounced its tiger census results in 2011.

While divisional forest officers (DFOs) remained responsible for management in their reserves, the NTCA was meant to ensure checks and balances which it has been unable to do so far.

After the first Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) of 28 tiger reserves, conducted by Project Tiger in 2005, the number of ‘poor’ reserves remained constant in 2010. But the absurdity of such evaluation can be clearly seen in cases such as that of Panna which was rated ‘very good’, when tigers were at the brink of local extinction there. Ironically the strongest point of our reserves according to the MEE is protection strategy and assessment of threats when “poaching numbers scale new highs every year.”

One of the few concrete measures taken by the NTCA has been

appointment of numerous review panels. However, the author argues, “frequent monitoring helps only if follow-up action is taken. Otherwise the money is wasted on numerous evaluations mostly by retired forest officials and conservationists who rarely speak out of line.”

To throw light on the possible ways forward, the author highlights the recommendations of the Simlipal Committee constituted in 2009 which said that “a serious knowledge based effort, with professional support from technically competent agencies... should guide the identification of candidate villages for relocation” with “locally appropriate strategies.”

<http://tehelka.com/national-tiger-consolation-authority/>

Date Accessed: 14.1.2013  
(Hansa Kaul)

#### **Climate Change Study: Emissions Limits Could Avoid Damage by Two-Thirds**

*(Nina Chestney, Huffington Post, 13 January, 2013)*

A study published by the journal Nature Climate Change, the first comprehensive assessment of the benefits of cutting greenhouse emissions to keep the global temperature rise to within 2 degrees Celsius by 2100, the world could avoid much of the damaging effects of climate change this century if greenhouse gas emissions are curbed more sharply.

The World Bank had recently warned that if global temperature rises by 4 degrees extreme heat waves could devastate areas from the Middle East to the United States, while sea levels could rise by up to 91 cm (3 feet), flooding cities in countries such as Vietnam and Bangladesh.

The study has examined a range of emissions-cut scenarios and their impact on factors including flooding,

## SECTION 2: GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

drought, water availability and crop productivity. According to the study adverse effects such as declining crop productivity and exposure to river flooding could be reduced by 40 to 65 percent by 2100 if warming is limited to 2 degrees.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/01/13/climate-change-study-emissions-limits\\_n\\_2467995.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/01/13/climate-change-study-emissions-limits_n_2467995.html)

Date accessed: 31.01.2013  
(Simi Sunny)

what is suicide on epidemic proportions the author feels that Indian government is guilty of appalling neglect, moral and legal- they are signatories to all the key international human rights conventions and are obliged to respect, protect and observe the human rights of farmers and their families.

[http://www.countercurrents.org/peebles\\_s260113.htm](http://www.countercurrents.org/peebles_s260113.htm)

Date Accessed: 1.2.2013  
(Simi Sunny)

dangerous realm of tactical nuclear weaponry.”

It is necessary for India now to strategically analyse its nuclear regime and reflect on the state of mutual suspicion that exists between the neighbouring countries.

<http://postnoon.com/2013/01/29/indiak-15-launch-defence-scientists-donation-proud/105520>

Date Accessed: 30.01.2013  
(Anjora Sarangi)

## AGRICULTURE

### Indian Farmers Trapped and Desperate

(Graham Peebles, *Countercurrents*, 26 January, 2013)

The author analyses the rapidly rising farmer suicides in India which he explains, is rooted in one fundamental cause that is “the drive towards corporate farming.” The author relates the suicides to the number of interconnected issues facing India. According to him the indicative figures available has largely excluded many disadvantaged groups like women, Dalits, Adivasis etc.

“The major cause of this epidemic is indebtedness to banks and moneylenders, hiding behind the debt however is twenty years of market liberalization at the hands of the government that has withdrawn all agricultural support, failed to invest in irrigation, improve the availability of rural credit, or provide farmers with alternative seed purchasing options.” Introduction of genetically modified crops has also resulted in the invasion of multinational corporations in the agricultural sector. “The Monsanto Bt seed has flooded the Indian market, to the extent that in some Indian states it is now impossible to buy non-Bt seed, despite the unconvincing evidence to its efficacy.”

It is important to realize that a farmer’s suicide creates a spiral of death and multiple suffering on its family and the society. In the face of

## DEFENCE

### India's K-15 Launch

(Arun Prakash, *Post Noon*, 29 January, 2013)

India launched the K-15 submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) on 28 January, marking the successful completion of its developmental programme. “The primary aim of India’s no-first use (NFU) nuclear arsenal has always been to deter China from threatening it or attempting coercion with its powerful nuclear arsenal. It is for this reason that Indian scientists have steadfastly persevered, since the early 1980s, in their endeavours to produce a missile capable of delivering a sizeable nuclear warhead(s) out to an intercontinental range of 5000-8000 km.”

In comparison to countries such as China, India’s K-15 is still insufficient with regard to the range it covers. “However, it must be recognized that the US, Soviet and the Chinese navies had all followed a similar route before achieving SLBM capability of intercontinental range.”

The development of nuclear arsenal by India since 1998 has resulted in Pakistan consistently seeking to acquire parity with the former. The “fissile plutonium production rate, from Chinese supplied reactors, will soon enable it to acquire one of the world’s largest warhead inventories. Apart from inducting cruise missiles, Pakistan has also stepped into the

## Cooperation between Indian and Myanmar Armed Forces

(Gautam Sen, *Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses*, 15 January 2013)

Recently Sweden’s Trade Minister confirmed that “Swedish anti-tank rifles and related ammunition, originally exported to India have ended up in the hands of the Myanmar Army, which is using them in its operations against the Kachin Independence Army (KIA).”

This incident brings to light, the nature of the long standing relation between the Indian army and the Tatmadaw. India justifiably had to build up a relationship with the Myanmar junta given

- the geographical contiguity,
- the volatile security situation in India’s northern eastern states
- the need to neutralise the operational facilities of Indian insurgents in Myanmar,
- China’s expanding economic and military links with Myanmar.

But now India needs to be “extra cautious while supplying material resources including warlike items to the Myanmar Army.” Mistakes of the past, like the one made during the NDA regime wherein, “without suitable precautions the government

## SECTION 2: GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

supplied some quantity of infantry and artillery weapons to the Tatmadaw”, should not be repeated.

The author argues that “India’s posture in the matter of defence cooperation with Myanmar, needs to be tempered, keeping in view the realities of ethnic turmoil in that country and the manifestly negative human rights record of the Myanmar Army.”

The need of the hour is to shift from weapons & equipment supply-based relationship, towards a more sustainable equation that can not be viewed as being on the wrong side of either the ethnic population or of democratic political forces like the National League for Democracy.

[http://www.idsa.in/idsacomments/CooperationBetweenIndianandMyanmarArmedForces\\_gsen\\_150113](http://www.idsa.in/idsacomments/CooperationBetweenIndianandMyanmarArmedForces_gsen_150113)

Date Accessed: 20.1.2013  
(Hansa Kaul)

## INDIA IN THE WORLD

### Myanmar and India's Northeast: Border Cooperation, Better Connectivity and Economic Integration

(Bibhu Prasad Routray, *Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS)*, 10 January, 2013)

Economic integration and cooperation between India's Northeast and Myanmar have been difficult to achieve over the past few decades because of insurgency in the region. India now appears to have "set up a comprehensive and functional security cooperation mechanism with Myanmar." "In the last week of 2012, India and Myanmar reached an agreement to open the fourth Border Liaison Office (BLO) in the Nagaland sector. Three BLOs are already in operation in the Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Mizoram sectors." Border security is hoped to be achieved through a cooperation mechanism between the border guarding forces. However, these efforts continue to be thwarted due to sub-optimal connectivity. Attempts are being made towards a "multi-modal connection through Ashuganj in Bangladesh to Tripura and the Sithwe-Kaladan River Project to Lunglei in Mizoram." Unfortunately, the infrastructure projects undertaken by the government in the past have been flawed and incomplete. Further, "community based organisations within the Northeast have posed a great roadblock in the idea of free traffic movement on roads connecting the region to Myanmar."

"Reforms presently underway in Myanmar have opened up enormous economic opportunities for several

countries. It is now up to New Delhi to prioritise the implementation of identified projects, so that the goal of economically integrating its Northeast with Myanmar does not simply remain a pipedream."

<http://www.ipcs.org/article/india/myanmar-and-indias-northeast-border-cooperation-better-connectivity-and-economic-3788.html>

Date Accessed: 14.01.2013  
(Anjora Sarangi)

### India Wades into the South China Sea

(Richard Javad Heydarian, *Asia Times*, 11 January, 2013)

The article discusses India's growing interest in the Southeast Asian region and an ambitious Indian naval vision in the Pacific.

**The author observes 3 significant inter-related trends of deepening ASEAN-India nexus:**

- Mutual strategic recognition first initiated by India's "Look East" policy
- Growing ASEAN-India links, which have created tremendous potential for large-scale bilateral trade and institutionalized economic integration
- India's substantial investments in hydrocarbon projects in the South China Sea

As a result of territorial conflicts in the South China Sea, there has been vehement Chinese opposition to India's close cooperation with Vietnam for exploratory energy projects in one of the most turbulent areas of the disputed waters. Despite this, New Delhi has "consistently reiterated its commitment to the freedom of navigation in the area" and strengthened its economic interest in the region by renewing a two-year joint-exploration project between ONGC and Petro Vietnam.

While the External Affairs Minister Salman Kurshid has stated that "[These sovereignty issues] need to be resolved between the countries

concerned", yet the author argues that ASEAN-India summit held in December, gave a clear signal for a more pro-active role for India in ensuring maritime security in the region.

#### **Rising maritime role**

In the background of escalating territorial disputes in South China Sea, the author highlights the importance of "developing a truly formidable navy to protect India's emerging global interests, especially the safe and predictable flow of strategic commodities from surrounding waters. In the last decade, the Indian Navy's share of total military expenditures has increased from 15% to 19%."

Another important angle to the issue is the American "pivot to Asia" policy which has "precipitated a gradual but decisive revitalization of strategic military ties with regional partners" underscoring growing common interests vis-a-vis China.

<http://www.atimes.com/atimes/China/OA11Ad03.html>

Date Accessed: 20.1.2013  
(Hansa Kaul)

## SOUTH ASIA Bangladesh: The Next China?

(Zahid Hussain, *The World Bank Blog*, 17 January, 2013)

The article mulls over Bangladesh's ability to expand its exports and capture China's export manufacturing market. "In the next three to four years, China's exports of labour-intensive manufactured goods are projected to decline." Bangladesh has a comparative advantage in the labour intensive industry- the Bangladesh wage is half of India's, and less than one-third of China's or Indonesia's. Further, Bangladesh would almost double its manufactured exports by capturing just 1% of China's manufacturing export markets. This would require reforms to free infrastructural bottlenecks in order to take advantage of low labour cost over its competitors. The infrastructural bottlenecks include congested roads,

### SECTION 3: INDIA AND THE WORLD

limited inland transport alternatives, and absence of a deep-sea port. Some of the other challenges include:

- Utility supply
- Compliance with labour and social standards
- A productivity gap reflecting skill and technological deficiencies
- Soaring risks and long lead times
- Political instability and corruption

The writer thus proposes that Bangladesh which is growing at double-digit rates per year can become the “next China”, if it captures the markets vacated by China’s transition away from a competitive export manufacturing hub, albeit with necessary reforms to encourage the business environment.

<http://blogs.worldbank.org/endpovertyinsouthasia/bangladesh-next-china>

Date Accessed: 31.01.2013  
(Karishma Mutreja)

## Pakistan President Calls For Speedy Work on Pak-Iran Projects

(*The Nation*, 31 January, 2013)

Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari called for the finalization of the Pak-Iran projects, especially in the energy, transportation & connectivity and trade and commercial sectors. Such projects will not only promote trade and economic relations between the two nations, but also a bilateral cooperation. “Pak-Iran bilateral relations with special reference to various economic projects such as Pak-Iran Gas pipeline, rail and roads connectivity, electricity import and wheat export were discussed besides regional situation and other matters of mutual concern.” The President stressed on finalizing and implementing the planned economic projects that would strengthen the bilateral relations and meet mutual relations of each other. Economically, to promote trade, “preferential tariff and free trade arrangements” should

be considered by the two countries. “Discussing the bilateral mega projects, the President reiterated Pakistan’s commitment for expeditious implementation of all mega projects including Pak-Iran Gas pipeline, the 1000 MW Taftan-Quetta transmission line, 400 MW Gwader Power supply project, construction of Noshki-Dalbandin sector of Quetta-Taftan Highway, the up-gradation of Quetta-Taftan track and others.” Discussing the situation in Middle-East, the President also spoke to the delegation about Pakistan’s support and desire for peace and stability in the Middle-East.

<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/islamabad/31-Jan-2013/president-for-speedy-work-on-pak-iran-projects>

(Date Accessed: 31.01.2013)  
Ranjana Adhikari

## EAST AND SOUTH EAST ASIA

### Talks On ASEAN+6 Trade Bloc to Kick Off in May

(Linda Yulisman, *The Jakarta Post*, 31 January, 2013)

The Association of South-East Asian Nations as one with its group’s trading partners will begin the first round of negotiations in May, to form the world’s largest economic bloc by 2015. Director General for international trade cooperation, of the Trade Ministry Iman Pambagyo said, “In the first round of talks, ASEAN and free trade agreement [FTA] partners will negotiate modalities and commitments for liberalization, covering the trade in goods, services and investment.”

“The new partnership, dubbed the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), or “ASEAN+6” trade deal, will establish an integrated market of 16 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, with a population of more than 3 billion and a combined gross domestic product (GDP) of US\$17.23 trillion. It will cover six countries outside ASEAN — Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand — that have all separately sealed free trade pacts with the 10-member group.” Iman Pambagyo also said that as per this plan, these negotiations might play a greater role in liberalizing the service sector, as each party by the end might have low import tariffs on merchandise trade by 2018. “Indonesia is scheduled to ratify the eight packages of the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services (AFAS) this year, which will further open up the domestic service sectors to regional players.”

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2013/01/31/talks-asean6-trade-bloc-kick-may.html>

(Date Accessed: 31.01.2013)  
Ranjana Adhikari

## MIDDLE-EAST

### After the Spring: Inclusive Growth In the Arab World

(Hafez Ghanem, *Brookings Institution*, January 30, 2013)

In order to ensure the Arab countries’ transition to democracy and the end of the continued unrest and instability present in the region, the article lays emphasis on inclusive growth and social justice. It seeks to address inclusive development in Egypt, Iraq, Yemen and Tunisia through three dimensions of inclusive growth: (1) economic opportunities for youth, (2) education, and (3) voice and good governance.

### SECTION 3: INDIA AND THE WORLD

Creating economic opportunities for the youth requires immediate attention as youth unemployment in the Arab world is among the highest in the world and nearly 55 percent of the Arab population is under the age of 25. Small and micro enterprises in Arab countries are major employers. Therefore, the article suggests that encouraging youth entrepreneurship and the development of small businesses have to be key objectives of any inclusive growth strategy in the Arab world as they can create better paying jobs.

A weak education system can be attributed as the cause for youth unemployment and lack of entrepreneurship. "Arab education systems perform poorly on three important dimensions: equity, relevance and quality of learning." Despite a relatively high public spending on education, "13 Arab countries that participated in the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Studies (TIMSS) scored below the scale average of 500 in 2007." A research paper by the Brookings Institution has indicated that reforms can be initiated to systematically monitor the availability of teachers and resources at schools, enhance transparency and accountability of school resources and results at the district and governorate level, and lastly efforts should be made "to refine and scale up the existing implementation and monitoring mechanism for school grants to schools and communities that improve access for disadvantaged students and girls, and enhance the quality of learning."

Lastly, important reforms are required in the area of governance to achieve the objective of inclusive growth. "Arab countries lag behind the rest of the world on nearly all governance indicators, particularly those related to voice and participation." The Arab youth is characterized by a sense of alienation and exclusion which contributed to the revolution. This can be solved by improving participation in policymaking and economic planning. Another research paper

alludes to successful consultative processes (including different government departments, the private sector and civil society) put in place by East Asian countries to agree on national development plans and monitor their execution. This is in contrast to Egypt where an institutional coordination mechanism among the various stakeholders to build a national vision was missing. The research paper adapts the experiences of East Asia to Egypt's situation, and presents a proposal for introducing the concept of "inclusive planning" in economic planning and policymaking to achieve the objective of inclusive development.

<http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/up-front/posts/2013/01/30-inclusive-growth-arab-world-ghanem>

Date Accessed: 31.01.2013  
(Karishma Mutreja)

## AFRICA

### UNESCO Determined to Help Mali Restore and Rebuild Its Cultural Heritage

*(United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 30 January, 2013)*

United Nations Director-General, Irina Bokova has announced that UNESCO will do anything to safeguard and restore the cultural heritage of Mali. She described that this is "a vital part of the country's identity and history and fundamental for its future. Its restoration and reconstruction will give the people of Mali the strength and the confidence to rebuild national unity and look to the future." UNESCO plans to send a mission to Mali, as soon as tensions in Timbuktu return to normalcy and security permits them to evaluate the damage and determine the urgent needs to finalize a plan of action. "The recent escalation of wanton destruction of

Mali's heritage makes this all the more urgent UNESCO will spare no effort to help rebuild the mausoleums of Timbuktu and the tomb of Askia in Gao, and we will mobilise all our expertise and resources to help safeguard and preserve the ancient manuscripts that testify to the region's glorious past as a major centre of Islamic learning. I appeal to all our partners to work with us."

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/resources/unescos-action-in-mali/>

(Date Accessed: 31.01.2013)

Ranjana Adhikari

### French Intervention in Mali

*(John Cherian, Frontline, 26 January – 08 February, 2013)*

On 20 December, 2012, the United Nations Security Council sanctioned an African-led military intervention force to be urgently dispatched to Mali with the goal to reunify the country. "Mali was effectively split into two after the northern part fell into the hands of a coalition of rebel forces in March 2012." The goal of the rebel forces led by National Front for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) was to create a state for Tuaregs - a nomadic community distinct from their Arab and African compatriots. "But another group, the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJWA), which had jointly fought with the MNLA to oust the Malian army from the North, soon gained the upper hand. The MUJWA is dominated by the radical Islamist organisation Ansar Dine." "While the ECOWAS (the Economic Community of West African States) intervention force for Mali was being organised, France, the former colonial master, sent in its own military force." France has had a history of neocolonial interventions in the African Subcontinent. "Already more than a hundred people, mostly civilians, have been reported killed as a result of French aerial attacks." "The Islamists will, in all probability, withdraw to their mountain stronghold

## SECTION 3: INDIA AND THE WORLD

near the Algerian border and wait for an opportune time to strike.”

<http://www.frontlineonnet.com/stories/20130208300214200.htm>

Date Accessed: 01.02.2013  
(Anjora Sarangi)

Also the bipartisan group of senators have stated that the likelihood of passing the immigration legislation is much better this year. Sen. Charles Schumer, a New York Democrat said that “polls show more support than ever for immigration changes and political risk in opposing it.”

Administration officials said “the president would bolster that 2011 blueprint with fresh details. His original plan centered on four key areas: a pathway to citizenship for the 11 million illegal immigrants in the U.S., improved border security, an overhaul of the legal immigration system and making it easier for businesses to verify the legal status of workers. However, the officials also stated that the ‘White House does have legislation drafted and could fall back on it should the Senate process stall.’”

### AMERICAS

#### Obama Pushes For Immigration Overhaul

(Khaleej times, 29 January, 2013)

President Barack Obama is trying to rally support for an immigration overhaul that would give millions of illegal immigrants a pathway to US citizenship while tightening border security.

“The simultaneous immigration campaigns come in the wake of the November presidential election, where Obama won more than 70 percent of the Hispanic vote in a defeat of Republican rival Mitt Romney, who famously urged illegal immigrants to self-deport. Republican lawmakers who had previously opposed immigration reform were forced to reconsider it and rebuild the party’s reputation among Hispanics, an increasingly powerful political force.”

However the passage for the immigration legislation by the Democratic-controlled Senate is not assured as the House of Representatives dominated by conservative Republicans have shown less interest in immigration revamp. Also the Republican base resists anything that might “resemble an amnesty” for illegal immigrants. “But Sen. John McCain, the former Republican presidential candidate, said members of his party should realize that supporting immigration legislation could boost Republican prospect in future elections.”

[http://www.khaleejtimes.com/kt-article-display-1.asp?xfile=data/international/2013/January/international\\_January1137.xml&section=international](http://www.khaleejtimes.com/kt-article-display-1.asp?xfile=data/international/2013/January/international_January1137.xml&section=international)

Date accessed 31.01.2013  
(Junty Sharma Pathak)

## SECTION 4: BOOKS AND OPINIONS

### BOOKS

#### Revolutionary Doctors

*How Venezuela and Cuba Are Changing the World's Conception of Health Care*  
by Steve Brouwer

Revolutionary Doctors gives an account of how the Venezuelan and Cuban medical model has aided in the transformation of the health care system of South American developing country. This book describes Venezuela's community health care model-Integral Community Medicine program, which has been drawn from Cuba's internationalist model. Under this programme "doctor-teachers move into the countryside and poor urban areas to recruit and train doctors from among peasants and workers." Thus the programme is carried out by the poor themselves which lends it a bottom to top approach. It thus "demonstrates how a society committed to the well-being of its poorest people can actually put that commitment into practice, by delivering essential health care through the direct empowerment of the people it aims to serve." One of the reviewers while praising the book points out that the book can serve as reference point for other developing countries. In that it shows to them that "the basic human right of access to medical and health care in time of need is not dependent on the level of economic development. Venezuela and Cuba are not rich countries yet, and in spite of this, health care reaches the majority of their populations."

<http://monthlyreview.org/press/books/pb2396/>

Date Accessed: 31.01.2013  
(Karishma Mutreja)

#### Greenprint: A New Approach to Cooperation on Climate Change

(Book review, The Economist, 2 February, 2013)

In Greenprint: A New Approach to Cooperation on Climate Change, Aaditya Mattoo and Arvind Subramanian, two Indian economists based in Washington, DC, move away from the traditional west oriented debates on climate change and instead "offer an unflinching look at what one might realistically expect emerging markets to do." For decades America has been the world's biggest polluter." But China and India are increasingly taking over that title. Between 2000-11,China and India accounted for 83% of the worldwide increase in carbon emissions. While environmentalists despair at the state of affairs in India and China, this book goes beyond such fatalism. "The West, the authors argue, has failed to mitigate global warming, so developing countries will have to take over. This is necessary, they say, because global warming will affect developing countries more than rich ones, partly because tropical and subtropical lands are more sensitive to warming than cold or temperate ones, and partly because rich people can afford better flood controls and drought-resistant seeds than poor ones. One estimate by William Cline, an economist, found that a rise of 2.5% in global temperatures would cut agricultural productivity by 6% in America but by 38% in India." If the two countries were to reduce emissions by 30% by 2020 (compared with doing nothing), their manufacturing output would fall by 6-7% and their manufactured exports by more than that. This is socially, politically and economically painful. "The authors supply more reasonable solutions. They reckon that China and others could and should invest more in new technologies, such as carbon capture and storage, in order to boost improvements in clean energy. They also provide a detailed and convincing case for rich countries to put a price

on carbon by introducing a modest border tax on imports from developing countries."

<http://www.economist.com/news/books-and-arts/21571109-emerging-markets-are-big-part-problem-they-are-essential-any-solution-take>

(B. Varun Kumar Reddy)  
(Accessed on: 01.02.2013)

#### Feminist Counselling and Domestic Violence in India

*Edited by Padma Bhate-Deosthali, Sangeeta Rege, Padma Prakash*

Published December 2012 by Routledge India – 352 pages

"Mainstream counselling in domestic violence often fails to address critical issues, such as gender socialisation processes and the abuse of power that allows violence against women, and focuses primarily on the intra-psychic nature of individual women. In contrast, feminist counselling is an effective alternative model, owing to its ability to address the fundamental correlation of abuse with power. In going beyond the individual, it helps women locate the source of their distress in the larger social context of power and control, manifesting in intimate, interpersonal relationships, and enables them to resist systemic oppression."

This work is of importance as it offers "one of the first systematic documentations of feminist psychosocial interventions in India. It situates the issue of domestic violence in the historical context of the women's movement, and examines institutional factors such as family and marriage that perpetuate abuse. Using extensive case studies, it discusses the methods, principles, techniques, skills and procedures followed by feminist organisations across the country, and

## SECTION 4: BOOKS AND OPINIONS

their role in women's empowerment." Practitioners such as social workers, counsellors and para-counsellors, health activists, grassroots workers, protection officers and service providers will find it a useful reference guide.

(Sushree Panigrahi )

### OPINIONS

#### Announce the Northeast As A SEZ

(op-ed, Ajit Kumar Talukdar, *The Sentinel*, 30 January, 2013)

The Author states that "the Government of India should come forward to solve the major problems of the North-Eastern states of the country and announce the North East region as a SEZ to have industrial development." He argues that once the region is declared a SEZ by the Government of India, it will automatically lead to a wide range of infrastructural development, unleashing opportunities for a rapid change in the socio-economic scenario in the NE states. He further argues that the "other regions of the country that are already given the status of SEZ have been able to make remarkable changes in the socio-economic scenario and have been able to bring social peace and economic development."

The "column intends to focus on the government's concern for peace and development in the North East region by the promotion of the export business and industrial development and by the involvement of the local people in the industries and companies in the North East region." After the globalization India is opening up to much liberalisation of the economy and moving fast. Though a number of states have made remarkable development but not all the states of the country especially the North East states have achieved the same level of development in the industrial sector. "As a result of economic backwardness the North East region

has not been able to solve its major problems of terrorism and unemployment and to bring a change in the socio-economic scenario as well as to bring peace and development in this region."

Therefore the author says that "the government of India must come forward to stretch its hands of cooperation wherever bilateral economic ties are made by other countries especially, the developed countries in foreign trades and commerce with the North East of India." Also with the relationship of trades and commerce all ready existing between the North East Region and the neighbouring countries, greater cooperation will help India to initiate bilateral peace talks with these countries and solve the problems of illegal migration and internal and international understanding and political and economic co-operation.

[http://www.sentinelassam.com/op\\_ed/story.php?sec=33&subsec=0&id=146553&dtP=2013-01-30&ppr=1#146553](http://www.sentinelassam.com/op_ed/story.php?sec=33&subsec=0&id=146553&dtP=2013-01-30&ppr=1#146553)

Date accessed 30.01.2013  
(Junty Sharma Pathak)

#### WHO Study Shows Improved Environment Can Reduce Child Mortality

(Op-ed, Cesar Chelala, *China Daily*, 29 January, 2013)

According to a World Health Organization study 13 million deaths across the world can be prevented by just using low-cost and sustainable tools and strategies to improve the environment.

There is an urgent need to tackle environmental factors as half of developing countries' population comprises of children and most children below the age of 5 years in these countries die because of intestinal and respiratory infections. "Environmental factors affect children's health from the time of

conception and intra-uterine development through infancy and adolescence. Children are more vulnerable than adults to environmental factors because, among other reasons, their immune systems and detoxification mechanisms are not fully developed." This also makes the use of low-cost interventions such as immunization, better delivery and newborn care practices, and treatment of common infections to save children's lives very crucial. In some countries, environmental change can also relieve governments of over one-third of their burden, which is created by the spread of diseases.

Intervention "both at the community and the national level, can significantly improve the environment by promoting water treatment and storage, and reducing air pollution. The last measure by itself could save almost 1 million lives a year." Referring to various measures taken at the local level having a positive impact on the environment in countries across the world the author says that such projects are "making children increasingly aware about the environment and their role in improving it. Planning, design, monitoring and management of the environment have become ideal platforms for children's participation."

[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/opinion/2013-01/29/content\\_16182655.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/opinion/2013-01/29/content_16182655.htm)

Date accessed 31.01.2013  
(Junty Sharma Pathak)

#### The Savage Child

(Opinion, *The Navhind Times*, 29 January, 2013)

In the context of the Juvenile Justice Board declaring the sixth accused in Delhi gang rape a minor at the time of the offence the author discusses whether the age limit for juvenile be reduced to 16 by change in law while keeping the interests of other children in mind.

Referring to the Justice J S Verma Committee report on amendments to criminal law in light of the same case the author points out that the committee has stood firmly against lowering the juvenile age because the

## SECTION 4: BOOKS AND OPINIONS

"Juvenile Justice Act has failed miserably to protect the children in the country and cannot hold the child responsible for a crime before first providing to him/her the basic rights given to him by the Indian Constitution."

In this regard the Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Ms Krishna Tirath said "change in law cannot be based on one case alone. Laws apply to all the children in the country and we cannot have a knee-jerk reaction on something so important, she said. She argued that "children are not given a lot of rights; therefore one cannot burden them with responsibilities and punishments of adults as well."

Thus one can see that the Justice Verma committee and the Minister Ms Tirath seem to be at variance with the demands of the public which is baying for 'an eye for an eye' type of justice. In this regard the author supports the Union Minister's suggestion that a clause be introduced to give judges the discretion to pull out only the rarest of the rare juvenile cases for different treatment. In addition he suggests that the ministry should undertake a study on juvenile crimes in the country to ascertain what steps need to be taken.

Lastly, the condition of juvenile homes in the country should be reviewed. Also, "a constitutional authority must be set up on the lines of the Comptroller and Auditor General for education and non-discrimination in respect of women and children needs to be seriously considered."

<http://www.navhindtimes.in/opinion/savage-child>

Date accessed 31.01.2013

(Junty Sharma Pathak)

### Why Hacking Is Good for Democracy

(Gavin newsom, Wired.com, 31 January, 2013)

"Formal authority is a twentieth-century model, a relic of the age when power was vested in institutions rather

than people. It is power as bestowed through titles rather than power earned through genuine leadership. Moral authority, on the other hand, is granted by the people. It is indifferent to titles, and yet it's invariably more powerful in the end than formal authority. As technology transforms every facet of our lives, it lays bare this division between moral and formal authority." Despite the negative connotation of the word hacker, Stewart Brand, editor of Whole Earth Catalogue defines white-hat hackers as people who are "benevolent fixers of things that are broken or not as good as they could be." And society will do well to encourage them. The advent of a more open era where data and systems are no longer impregnable calls for a different approach in dealing with hackers and the hacker ethic. The iGEM (the annual International Genetically Engineered Machine Foundation conference) is a good example of this. "It is a gathering of nearly two hundred student teams from all over the world, twenty-six countries which meet every fall at MIT. They create new microorganisms — they're undergraduates doing world-class genetic engineering of microbes." This is exciting from an educational perspective, but frightening from a law-enforcement one because of the ongoing threat of bioterrorism." While in the past the FBI might have banned the conference, now the FBI is working in close coordination with iGEM. "In cities throughout the country, hackathons are redefining the meaning of civic engagement. Programmers, designers, developers, and data crunchers gather together for a finite period — say, forty-eight hours or a week — to try to solve some of the city's problems. Over sandwiches and sodas, in marathon sessions of coding and design, people apply their skills for no other reason than to make their cities better. Over the course of several forty-eight-hour hackathons, people developed ideas like hyperlocal sites for organizing volunteers, interactive tools for showing residents how their tax dollars had improved their neighborhoods, a smartphone app to help people carpool or bike-pool to

events ... and on and on. The creative spirit unleashed by these marathon hacking sessions has spread throughout the city, encouraging others to dream up their own apps and services." Even the FBI now has a strategy of working with the hackers and not against them and thus ending up with more information than they would have had otherwise.

<http://www.wired.com/opinion/2013/01/hacking-democracy/>

(B. Varun Kumar Reddy)  
(Accessed on: 01.02.2013)